

TUESDAY last witnessed the most important debate which has yet occurred in the present session, and it terminated in decisive action. The House came to a vote on the Military bill at a quarter to three. The result was a decided victory for constitutional government in these Islands. As was clearly pointed out in the House, the issue involved was not merely the question as to the merits or demerits of this particular bill. A much wider and more fundamental question was the real matter in hand and this it was which the vote of that day has settled. This question was simply—are we or are we not to have any irresponsible political power in this country? The vote of Tuesday said as plainly as action can say anything, that the answer of the present Legislature to that question is an emphatic No.

There were several excellent speeches made in behalf of the bill, those by the Minister of the Interior, Noble Smith and Rep. Kinney being particularly able and effective. No doubt some of the historic parallels used can hardly be supported. The veto power in England has not been used for 181 years and is practically obsolete. Any use of it might cause a revolution. In theory as well as in fact England is ruled entirely by the Legislature. As the Supreme Court have interpreted our Constitution, that is unfortunately not the case here. That decision of the Court may or may not have done violence to the spirit and true intent of the instrument, but there is no escaping the fact that it is the authoritative exposition of the fundamental law, and that accordingly the King in vetoing a bill without the consent and against the advice of his Ministers, is only exercising his strictly constitutional rights.

This is a state of affairs to be regretted certainly, but fortunately we are not left without a legal remedy. If it is true that the King according to the Supreme Court is possessed of political power without political responsibility, it is equally true that he possesses such power contrary to the will of the people and of their representatives. The other branch of the Government—the Legislature—have powers which it is open to them to exercise in a way the meaning of which cannot be mistaken, in a way which shall say, legally but clearly—there shall be no power in this country not coupled with responsibility. This is by no means an improper use of power. On the contrary, it is an exercise of legal rights in the interest of the highest and holiest cause known to human effort—the cause of individual liberty against despotism and tyranny. No one cares to precipitate a struggle of the kind between the Legislature and the Crown. No one has any interest in such a conflict, and least of all the Crown, for it can only result, as all such struggles result in the end, in the triumph of constitutionalism over autocracy, in the victory of the people with whom both the superior right and superior force reside. The vote of last week was not, on the part of the House, the first step in such a struggle. It was strictly a matter of course, and only the exercise of the ordinary constitutional right to make laws by a two-thirds vote. It is earnestly to be hoped that no resort to more radical measures may ever become necessary.

However that may be, the vote on the veto is a conclusive indication that, in the opinion of the present House, the exercise of any irresponsible power is something not to be tolerated. The vote was not on the merits of the Military bill. Members who were opposed to it might have voted for the bill that day with perfect consistency. Some votes undoubtedly were cast which expressed only the voters' opinion as to the merits of the measure, but in that case, to our thinking, the smaller and more immediate issue obscured and confused the wider and more embracing. It needs to be said and said again, that the vote referred to was important not because the Military bill is good or bad, not because the country has much or little to gain by its passage, but because it raised the question, Where does the power in this country lie? Who is to govern, the people through their representatives, duly elected, or by the King with a strong arm? The Assembly's vote is important because it conveyed a hint to absolutism. Personally, we have very grave doubts as to the utility of the Military bill. We would have preferred to see the issue of July 24th raised by a measure like the Police or Governors' bill. We confess to a secret sympathy with the sentiments expressed by the Hon. C. Brown, and think the country might gain a more solid advantage by the total abolition of the army and the application of the funds to the roads, than it can ever hope to realize by the provisions of an Act like this. It is, therefore, chiefly because the vote of the House was a vote for the principle of constitutional government, that we applaud it as we do.

While every friend of government by and for the people may fairly rejoice over the work of that day, it should not be forgotten that there is an exultation

which is foolish because premature. We are not out of the woods yet. The decisions of the Supreme Court cannot be abrogated by a vote of the House, and all Houses may not be constituted as this one is. There is a lesson in the vote, but it may need much enforcing before it is learned. The sky of Hawaiian Liberty looks fair for the moment, but it may yet be obscured by clouds and storm. Only continual vigilance, unaltered firmness and unwearied effort can permanently secure the political rights which have thus far been successfully asserted.

A VERY amusing half-hour may be spent over a document which belongs, perhaps, to ancient history by this time, and yet to a history which bears very closely on that in process of making at this writing. We refer to Hoapili Baker's reply to the Ministerial utterances published in 1880. The pamphlet, which violates every rule of sense and syntax, is a singularly foolish defence of the famous \$10,000,000 loan scheme. The author, whoever he may be, raves extravagantly of a system of fortifications extending over all the Islands of the group, connected by a network of railroads, an essential part of the defenses which are to make the group invulnerable. The author thought the nation should prepare for a foreign war with China, the Tartars, or the Russians. It is well known that this document was not the work of Baker, who was incapable even of its absurdities. It is rumored that it was inspired from the throne.

Whatever the origin of the scheme may have been, no doubt the money, if obtained, would have been spent with all the madness which the pamphlet foreshadows. Luckily the money was not forthcoming, and the scheme must forsooth remain in abeyance. It is sleeping, not dead. It should not be forgotten that there is an Act now in force in this country which reads quite as fervidly as any of Hoapili Baker's after-dinner speeches—we mean the military bill of 1886. There, too, everything is organized on the grand scale, the pages fairly bristle with Generalissimos, Adjutants and Major Generals, Aides-de-camp, Intelligence Officers, Secretaries of war. The army is for the whole group—Governors have the power to proclaim martial law. "The King is the sole judge of the necessity for organizing, disbanding or consolidating volunteer military companies."

Anyone who can put two and two together may, from the pamphlet and the Act, arrive at a shrewd guess at another reason for the veto, not specified in the Royal message. If the Throne can but recover the power which has passed from it forever, this is perhaps its dream. Under the bad law of 1886 it does not despair of again building up an irresponsible power, with forts and bayonets and great guns. Appealing for support to all that is worst in the people—to the desire for free opium and free liquor, to superstition, licentiousness and heathenism. After us the Deluge, has been the motto of about every Hawaiian Government since the present incumbent has sat on the throne. The deluge came sooner than was expected. It has only rained enough to frighten thus far. The waters may yet rise, as they did in Louis Sixteenth's time, high enough to drown.

Death of Rev. Mr. Forbes.

Rev. A. O. Forbes, Corresponding Secretary of the Hawaiian Board, who left Honolulu May 18th in pursuit of health, died of congestion of the brain at Colorado Springs, in the early morning of Sunday, July 8th. After his arrival at Colorado Springs, June 21st, he had thought himself improving in health. He had planned an excursion with Col. De la Vergne's family, but on the Saturday previously felt slightly indisposed. Yet on consulting a physician, finding in the same house with him, no serious trouble was apparent. Shortly after he retired the occupants of an adjoining room heard him moaning. Opening his door they found him unconscious. The physician was immediately summoned, and also Col. De la Vergne; but he never came to consciousness, and passed away soon after midnight. His body was embalmed, by direction of Mr. S. T. Alexander, awaiting the arrival of Mr. Forbes. She arrived at San Francisco on the 11th inst. on the Australia. Rev. Mr. Frear was on the wharf to announce to her the sad tidings. Mr. C. M. Cooke and brother were to go directly to Colorado Springs, expecting to spend the Sabbath there. It was finally decided to have the body buried at Colorado Springs. Telegrams were received announcing that the funeral services took place at 1:30 p. m. Sunday, July 15th. Mrs. Forbes and daughter, whose plans have been thus unexpectedly and sadly broken, remain in Oakland.

The lamented gentleman was a son of Rev. Cochran Forbes, one of the early missionaries of the American Board to this group, who after a long term of service went home to Pennsylvania to die. As stated in this paper previously, Mr. Forbes learned of the death of his brother, Col. Forbes, on his arrival in San Francisco. Of late years Rev. Mr. Forbes has been Secretary of the Hawaiian Board of Missions, his quiet but fervent zeal being a chief element in the great expansion of Hawaiian missionary enterprise, not only in these Islands, but in the groups of Micronesia. He was a master of the native language and an authority upon Hawaiian history. Few men in the community have been more esteemed for the qualities that mark the Christian gentleman, and his death leaves a blank that will long be generally realized. Mr. Forbes was probably 55 years of age.

OUR SAN FRANCISCO LETTER.

Per S. S. "Australia," San Francisco, July 17, 1888.

(From our special Correspondent.)

The most important news for the Islands, by this mail, is the advance in the price of sugar which is now quoted at 6 cents for 30 deg. in New York. The change has been gradual as follows: on July 3d advance to 5 1/2 cents, July 8th to 5 1/4, July 9th to 5 3/8, July 12th to 6 cents.

The European and Eastern markets are both firm and active, beet sugar in London being quoted at 14s 6d per 100 pounds, granulated at 7 1/2 and Standard A at 7 1/4 in New York. In San Francisco the market for refined sugars has been equally active, there being an advance of 1/4 cent on July 9th and 1/4 cent later on the same day, 1/4 cent on July 11th, and 1/4 cent on July 12th. The present prices now are: Cube sugar 8 1/2 cents, Granulated 8 cents, Confectioners 7 1/4. Extra C 7 cents, and Golden C 6 1/2 cents. At New York there are no sellers of granulated, supplies are light and the market very strong.

The imports of raw sugar at San Francisco, for the first half of this year, were 194,687,835 pounds. Six cargoes amounting to 28,750,000 pounds have been received from Manila and almost the whole of the remainder from the Islands. Additional imports from Manila will amount to 37,000 tons. The value of all imports from the Islands, for the first half of this year, has aggregated \$7,854,054, an increase over last year.

Congress has been deeply interested in the sugar tariff. Cannon of Illinois offered an amendment to the Mills bill to the effect that sugars under No. 19 Dutch standard should be free, and above that standard the duty should be three-tenths of one cent; also that a bounty of 2 cents per pound should be paid to producers of sugar from beets, sorghum and other cane. The question was vigorously debated. Cannon's amendment was defeated. Fuller of Iowa wanted to place all sugars on the free list, and this was rejected. Dingley of Maine offered an amendment, which was defeated, to fix the duty at 2 cents per pound, and above that standard with an addition of 2-100 of a cent per pound for each degree. On motion of Mills the duty on molasses testing not over 56 degrees was fixed at 24 cents per gallon. Mills was then introduced, and the House adjourned. The sugar duties being allowed to stand as proposed in the Mills tariff bill.

A reason given for the advance in sugar is that Claus Spreckels and associates have cornered the trade over in New York. This is true or not, it is certain that the Trust is now sending to London for supplies, whereas a short time ago it was sending cargoes away from New York. The Trust endeavored to force the issue, who handled sugars of outside refineries, it is reported that the brokers are now boycotting the Trust. It is also stated that Claus Spreckels has cleared \$2,000,000 already by the advance in sugar values. The receipt of orders from New York has stretched the London market, which also affects that in New York. This is confirmed by telegram to-day, from New York, to the effect.

There has been intense excitement among the trade over the sugar situation. It is a fact that the Trust refineries are, none of them, taking orders for sugar, as they have more orders even than they can now fill with their present stocks of raw sugar, and, owing to the fluctuations of the market, they are afraid to contract for future delivery. The price of both raw and refined is expected to advance still higher.

In San Francisco it used to be the custom both refineries to bill sugars at the price on the day of delivery; but, when Mr. Welch assumed the management of the American, he changed that rule and agreed to supply all sugars at figures quoted on the day they were ordered. The California, a month or so ago, had its figures a shade higher than the American, which has now orders that it will take thirty days to fill at 6 1/2 cents for granulated. Mr. Welch is refusing to take orders and will soon be in need of more supplies. The demand upon the Coast refineries has been enormous this year and will continue so for several months. It is hinted that the American has sent away all its raw needs, four cargoes to New York and one by rail to New Orleans.

The Attorney-General of New York is taking active proceedings, on behalf of the people, against the Sugar Trust, the Supreme Court having decided in another case that such corporations were illegal.

Mr. A. B. Spreckels will leave on the 16th inst. for Philadelphia, remaining there probably till the end of the year.

The Hawaiian Commercial Co. continues to pay on 20 percent dividends, and is quoted at from \$20 to \$22 per share.

News from China is to the effect that a fire at Hongkong, on May 31st, burned 150 houses and caused the death of several Chinese.

Russian and American female advisers of the Queen of Corea are working to secure the independence of the country from Chinese suzerainty. The general feeling of the Chinese is very hostile to the Russian and American advisers. The general feeling of the Chinese is very hostile to the Russian and American advisers. The general feeling of the Chinese is very hostile to the Russian and American advisers.

The London Times gives full accounts of the success of the phonograph sent to London by Edison. Among communications sent in and faithfully reproduced by the instrument were a poem, selections from the piano and cornet, duets, and letters to the Hawaiian Commercial Co. The instrument, which was written out from the phonographic repetition of the voice that uttered it. A child of seven years recognized the voice of Dr. Powers which she had heard her mother repeat.

The Tahiti natives rejected the friendly overtures of the French and attacked the launch of their warship, which then shelled the native villages.

The Pittsburg lockout is practically over as most of the manufacturing firms have granted the demands of the workmen.

Seignior Bros. & Co., clock manufacturers of New York, have failed, the banks being the principal sufferers. Congressman Samuel J. Randall is seriously ill. He has been suffering from ulceration of the bowels for months past, and aggravated his complaint by eating quickly some blackberries and ice cream, which brought on a hemorrhage.

floods and storms at Pittsburg, Pittsfield, Albany, Boston, New York and all along the Atlantic Coast. Lives of men, women and cattle were lost, besides there being great destruction of property. Snow fell in the suburbs of London on July 11th, and there have been heavy gales on the English Channel.

The cable line to Australia is broken between Java and Port Darwin. During the interruption the Government of Victoria tested the efficiency of their maritime defences, and mobilized their gunboats with artillery and naval reserves.

J. D. Spreckels, in his yacht Larline, raced the yacht Aggie to San Diego from San Francisco, the Larline winning by 32 minutes, and both being close together all the way. The yacht Coronet, which beat the Larline, arrived at San Diego on 8th inst., 105 days from New York. All three yachts were at San Diego at the same time, but the captain of the Coronet declined to have a spin with the Larline.

The first consignment of the new crop of Hawaiian rice was disposed of at \$4 1/2 per cent, there being less than 1,000 bags to hand by the Zealandia. The stock of old crop amounts to 5,000 bags and is all held by one firm at the same figure as the new.

A large number of pleas for mercy, in the case of murderer Maxwell, alias Brooks, were made to the grand jury at St. Louis on the 10th and 11th inst., when Mrs. Brooks and her daughter were present. The Governor granted a respite of four weeks, but refused to commute the death sentence.

Tilghman's coal mine at Kimberley, South Africa, caught fire and 800 men were entombed. As many as 503 persons were rescued, all hope of saving the others being abandoned.

R. K. Fox, of the Police Gazette, has offered a purse of \$5,000 for a single scull race between John Teemer, the American champion, and Peter Kemp, the champion of the world. Kemp is to be allowed \$1,000 for his expenses if he will come to America, the race to be rowed in the fall.

In the winning Yale boat against Harvard was young G. R. Carter, of Honolulu, who was starboard stroke. Immediately after the race he received a check for \$2,400 from his father, who had promised his son \$2,000 if he should win the Yale boat.

The Canadian Pacific line is gradually extending its American territory, its latest purchase being the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic road. This move may prevent the operation of the long and short haul clause of the U. S. interstate law.

Germany has agreed to abolish the International Convention, abolishing sugar bounties, direct or indirect, on the exportation of sugar.

Diaz has been re-elected President of Mexico with but two dissenting votes. A bill has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies of France to abolish dueling.

The Norwegian bark Magnolia has arrived at New Orleans from Rio Janeiro with yellow fever on board. The Captain and crew of the bark died on the voyage.

The free wool clause of the Tariff bill has passed the House and is to come into operation October 1st.

Mr. Clifford, the Hudson's Bay Company agent at Montreal, and the company have been killed by Indians, and the white population were intruded in the company's store. H. B. M. S. Caroline sailed at once from Victoria, B. C., with a battery of seventy strong. There are about 2,000 Indians, who are fighting, and some lively fighting is anticipated.

The steamer Boscowitz has also gone with supplies and ammunition.

Exports from San Francisco to the Islands, during the first half of this year, amounted to \$1,438,407 in value, being \$72,785 less than in 1887.

Extensive fires have occurred at Oakland, at Marysville and at the Potrero, in San Francisco, when a dozen families were rendered homeless.

The heat of California has been very oppressive, the weather clerk's thermometer registering 92 degrees in the shade on the 15th inst. The writer's thermometer registered 82 degrees in the house, hanging in a doorway between open windows and doors, with shades down and shutters closed. It was no day for coats, waistcoats or collars, and fortunately was a Sunday.

Queen Nabala has been deprived by force of her son because she refused to permit her husband, King Milan of Serbia, to procure a divorce. She was compelled to leave for Vienna.

Emperor William II. has begun his journey to meet the Czar. The ceremonies at Kiel, where he boarded the royal yacht and the German squadron maneuvered, formed a brilliant spectacle.

At a sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, Boulanger became suddenly enraged, and denounced M. Floquet, Chief of the Council, as an impudent liar. The latter challenged Boulanger and a duel was fought on the following morning, 13th inst., when Boulanger was dangerously wounded in the throat. Floquet was slightly cut on the hand and left breast.

The new steamer City of New York will start on her first trip across the Atlantic on August 1st, making a trial trip around Ireland. It is hoped that she will make the run from Fastnet light to Sandy Hook in five days. Blaine will be a passenger by the City of New York.

The latest shipping news is as follows: S. S. Francisco—Arrivals: July 31st bktn. S. G. Wilder 15 days, July 31st ship, Allen M. N. 19 days, bark Teylon 21 days, July 31st S. S. Zealandia 7 1/2 days, July 10th S. S. Anstralia 7 days, all from Honolulu; July 14th brig Geo. H. Douglass 27 days from Kahului, July 17th bark C. O. Whitmore, from Honolulu, outside and bound in.

Departures: July 1st S. S. Mariposa for Honolulu and Sydney; July 3d brig Consuelo for Honolulu; July 13th brig J. D. Spreckels for Kahului, under W. S. Borne's command; July 15th bktn. Planter and brig W. G. Irwin for Honolulu.

Projected Departures: For Honolulu the bark Forest Queen, to sail July 18th, the bktns. S. N. Castle and S. G. Wilder.

RECEIVED—July 16th bktn. Loch Lee from Honolulu.

FROM SEASIDE—July 9th bark Kalakaua, 22 1/2 feet lumber, for Mahukoua.

UTAH—Loading bark Atlatla for Honolulu.

Spoken: June 12th 29 N. 39 W. bark Amy Turner from Boston for Honolulu; July 4th 32 1/2 N. 147 W. bark Alden Bore from Honolulu to San Francisco.

The bark Saragani has gone to Port Townsend to load lumber.

The ship Alex. McNeil is being changed into a bark, and will proceed to Sydney with general merchandise; thence to New South Wales for Honolulu, where she will load sugar for San Francisco. Capt. Friis need not be looked for in Honolulu for six months.

A contract has been let for new engines and boilers for the S. S. Australia to the Riedon Iron Works. They will be triple expansion and must be completed, in the steamer, within eight months. It will be six months before she need lay up for repairs.

Brook, to be launched on the 24th inst. She is like the Relief except that she is all steel, even her decks, houses, bulkheads, angles, etc.

The British ship Merioneth recently made the trip from Cardiff to San Francisco in 96 days and her captain was then presented by her agents, the Spreckels, with a silk flag. She has just completed her return trip from San Francisco to Queenstown in 95 days, making 191 days as the sailing time for the round trip.

The S. S. Tyron on her last trip from Glasgow to Philadelphia experienced three very severe shocks of earthquake on July 2d when sixty miles southeast of Cape May. The firemen rushed on deck and men shouted to lower the boats, so severe were the shocks.

The S. S. Professor Morse, Honduras to New Orleans, reports a terrific hurricane in Central America on July 28th and 29th, and an earthquake which did much damage at St. Thomas.

A CONTEMPORARY PARALLEL.

The Veto in the United States—What a Senate Committee Considers Its Dangerous Exercise.

Senator Dawes of Massachusetts, on June 28th, submitted to the United States Senate a report of the Committee on Pensions upon eight vetoed pension bills, the merits of which the report discusses in detail, and the passage of which it recommends, the objections of the President notwithstanding. Among other things, the report says:

"Since the 8th day of May, 1886, no less than 136 special acts granting pensions to individuals have been disapproved by the President. These disapprovals were based, in a great majority of cases, upon the expressed opinion of the President that Congress has erred in its judgment upon mere questions of fact. It is, of course, impossible for the President to examine the mass of documentary evidence upon which each case depends, and which is invariably signed by the committee. It follows, therefore, that when he disagrees with Congress upon the questions of fact in these cases, his judgment must be based, not on the reports of the committee, in which the facts are always stated with sufficient fullness, but upon the report of some subordinate in the Bureau of Pensions. This bureau, the action of which Congress has reversed, is thus enabled to review the action of Congress by the express direction of the President.

This method of consideration is an abridgement by the Executive of the exercise of the right of Congress to waive that straight proof which is refused in ordinary cases in the departments. "Usurpations move rapidly in republics from small objects to those of greater concern. That the power exists in the Executive to disapprove any legislative measure cannot be denied, but the duty undoubtedly also exists that it shall not be used in such a manner or upon an occasion or pretext so as to make its exercise operate as an encroachment upon powers of the other departments of the Government. The right to so use the power of executive disapproval as to change the ordinary method of legislative action by a majority vote upon proper subjects of legislation merely because the Executive differs from Congress upon the sufficiency of proof or the expediency of relief, does not, in the opinion of your committee, exist.

"Such a misconception of the extent of executive power, making it limitless, is fraught with danger to the independence of Congress and to its constitutional powers, and it certainly implies that a factious or usurping President, who proposes to subordinate the will of that department to which the Constitution has confided the principal powers of government, can rightfully do this, and so prevent the will of the people from taking a statutory form except by a two-thirds vote of each House of Congress."

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